

### REMARKS

The examiner objected to the drawings because of a typographical error. Applicants have submitted a corrected figure to correct the error. Approval thereof and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested in view of this submission.

The examiner objected to the specification under MPEP 608.01(i), and 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(h) for failing to commence all matters related to claims on a separate page. Applicants have amended the specification to overcome the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is requested in view of this amendment.

The examiner objected to two document entries in the information disclosure statement filed May 15, 2003 for failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2). Applicants have corrected the citation for document AQ and have provided the complete text for document AR. Consideration of the information referred to therein is requested in view of this submission.

Claims 2, 12, and 22 and 8, 18, and 28 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form, and were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter.

In light of amended claim 1, claims 2, 12, and 22 are intended to associate a class of descriptive categories with sources of products or services. "Social responsibility" is an example of such a class of categories, capable of further subdivision into quantifiable factors. Claim 2 thus further limits claim 1.

Amended claims 8, 18, and 28 define the hierarchy of star ratings recited in claims 7, 17, and 27, respectively. To use such a rating system, the end user would need to know how the scale corresponds to the highest and lowest ratings.

Claims 1 to 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for failing to direct the claimed invention to statutory subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended by including a display or a computer system to tie the claimed method to a technological art, environment, or machine that results in a practical application producing a concrete, useful, and tangible result that forms the basis of statutory subject matter.

Claims 1 to 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,236,990 (Geller).

Amended claim 1 recites a method of ranking sources of products or services. Claim 1 includes the features of displaying a plurality of categories, each category having a set of weights for a user to choose in order to weight the categories, with each category further including at least one user selectable factor. Claim 1 also requires calculating a total score for each of the sources, based on the user defined weights and user selected factors and determining a ranking for each of the sources of products or services based on the total score. Geller neither describes nor suggests at least these features of claim 1.

Geller discloses a method to aid a user in selecting a product from a catalog of alternatives. Geller allows a user to assign weights to various attributes associated with the desired product. The method orders alternatives according to a weighted average of attribute ratings. Geller does not describe a method for ranking sources of products or services. Geller also fails to associate multiple categories with each source of products or services, from which the user can include or exclude multiple quantifiable factors to affect the resulting score through both user defined weights and user selected factors.

Amended independent claims 11 and 21 are article and apparatus claims, respectively, that roughly correspond to correspond to claim 1. These claims are also believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons noted above with respect to claim 1.

Each of the dependent claims is also believed to define patentable features of the invention. Each dependent claim partakes of the novelty of its corresponding independent claim and, as such, has not been discussed specifically herein.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this

Applicant : Will Crosby, et al.  
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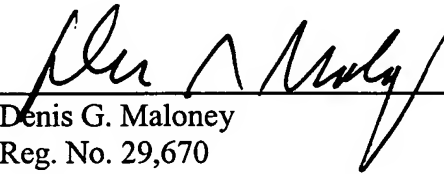
paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Enclosed is an Information Disclosure Statement with accompanying fee. Also enclosed is a Petition for One Month Extension of Time with accompanying fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

8/4/05

  
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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 5 and replaces the original sheet including Fig. 5.

In Figure 5, item 86, the "Chack" has been replaced with the word "Check".

Attachments following last page of this Amendment:

Replacement Sheet (1 page)  
Annotated Sheet Showing Change(s) (1 page)

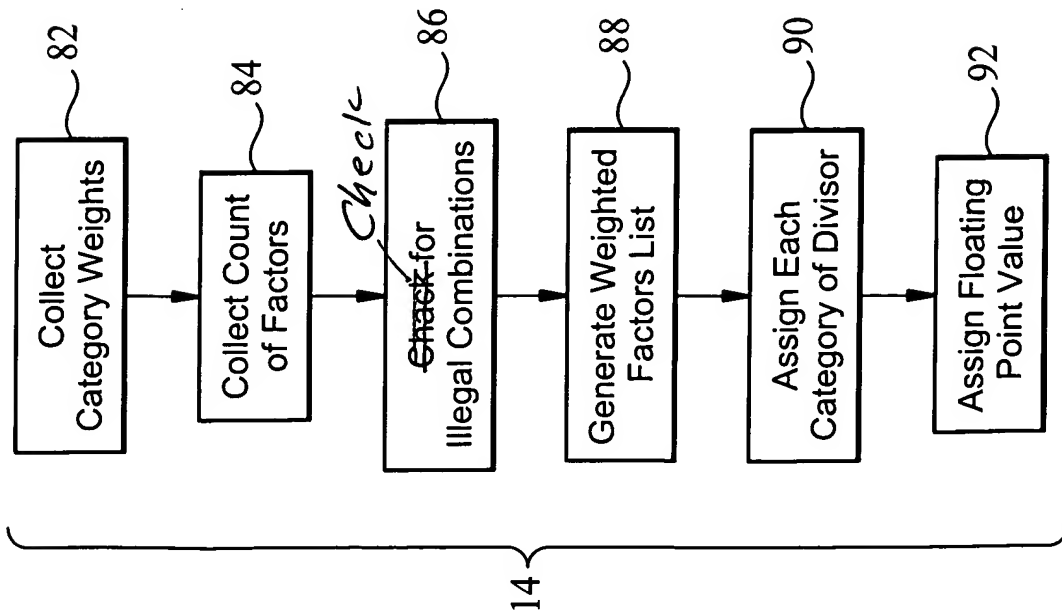


FIG. 5

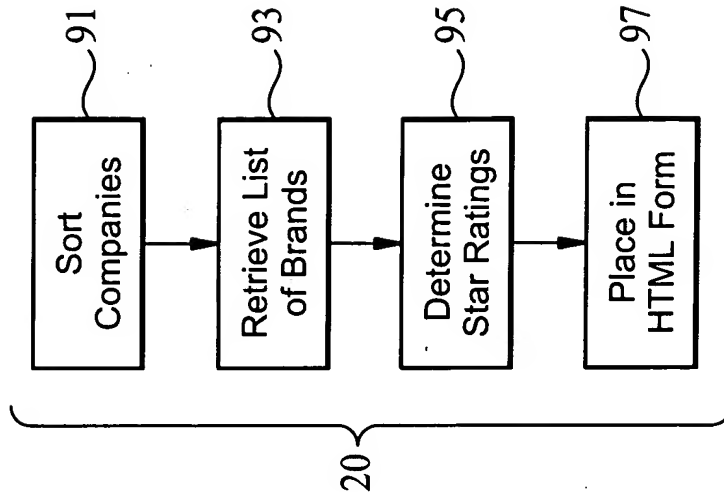


FIG. 6